
ARENA REPORT

Volume 1, Number 16

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Friday, April 28, 1989
Providence Civic Center
Providence, RI

Welcome back to another edition of "Arena Report". I'd like to welcome new readers which are quite a few this time around thanks to the recent rash of plugs I've received. And thanks to the regulars who continue to show interest in my thoughtless meanderings. (I was so interested at the show last night that I read the dictionary.)

We're back to a regular format this issue since there are no PPV events or specials to cover. The 5/12 issue (Springfield) will have a review on "Wrestle War '89" as well as part one on Mexican wrestling by Evan Ginzburg. My final issue before I move to Florida will be 5/19 from New Haven. I'll probably mention this again so skip over it if you wish but give me a chance to get settled in FLA. as I'll be job hunting for the first couple of weeks and that has to take precedent. I've applied at the PWF offices as a blade man. You stand around the ring and slip the boys the blade when they give you the signal. Anyway, I'm not sure when my first issue will come out from there as the shows won't be announced until May. And who knows if Dusty will be running every Sunday night by then. But I am not folding.

"Arena Report" comes out twice a month and costs 50¢ an issue. A number appears at the top left corner of this page letting you know how many issues you have remaining. All renewals, letters, and match reports can be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT 06066. I met Scott Dickinson, Louie Fortuna, and Paul Jackiewicz in the capital of the Ocean State.

Opening Match

Paul Roma beat Boris Zhukov in 12:02 with a powerslam. Okay for an opener as Roma looked good and Boris... well, he's better than Volkoff. *

WWF Woman's Championship

Rockin Robin retained her title pinning Judy Martin in 12:13. Robin had a new ring jacket. Probably her payoff for Wrestle Mania. That's about all she was worth. Martin missed a charge and Robin rolled her up. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

3rd Match

Dino Bravo beat Hercules in 13:25. Herc did a sunset flip from the apron and Dino sat on him for the win. Horrible stuff. Dud

Main Event

Randy Savage beat Brutus Beefcake by pinfall in 6:58. I don't care what you say, Sherri is better than Liz in all aspects, even looks. Attractive in a sadistic sort of way. Maybe the Travis Brothers are rubbing off on me. Lance, Jeff, and Greg, the fastest guns in the west. (Although Lance's gun has gotten a little slower

with marriage pending.) Back to the match. Sherri now carries a Gucci bag. (Actually K-Mart) She took powder out of it and blew it in Beefer's face. Savage drove a knee to the back which sent Brutus into the buckles face first making him easy prey for a pin. One of the worst main events I ever saw (wait till Andre-Studd 5/12) and it was short to boot. Pretty lucky. * just for the incredible heat from the oxymorons in the audience.

***** It was now time for a live Brother Love segment with Zeuss. The guy's a monster. Did a decent job as all he really did was give Bro Bruce one word answers. Said he was going to destroy Hogan. Please, do us all a favor. I think this will get over as most of the big guys Hulk feuds with are fat while Zeuss looks pretty intimidating. *****

5th Match

Warlord beat Koko Ware with a powerslam in 12:57. Ugh, double ugh. Good use of the english language but no better way to describe it. Sorry Ted. -*

Tag Team Match

The Bushwhackers beat The Brain Busters in 10:47. Tully, Arn, please leave while you still have careers. Poor Rockers, how do you think they feel. No clean looking pins in three match series and Bushes get one in the first. Upper brass must like Luke's gums. Arn lifted Butch for a slam but Luke headbutted Butch on top for the pin. ‡*

Final Match

Jake Roberts beat Ted DiBiase in 16:59. Best bout of the night but that wasn't a chore. Still a far cry from their Mid-South battles. Jake pushed Ted into the ropes but Brother Million held on pointed to his brain and poof, it was gone as Jake did it again and pinned him. **

Providence Notes

Attendance was 8,000 and the crowd had intense heat all night. This is usually the rowdiest city to see wrestling in in the New England area... Scott gets line of the night award. During the ladies match he said, "This is the WWF. We wrest..." Rene Goulet, Jay Strongbow, and Terry Garvin were in attendance... They return 6/9 with: Andre-Studd, Haku-Duggan, Rougeaus-Rockers, Powers of Pain-Hart Foundation, Honkey-Snuka, Poffo-Powers.

Ramblings

Wait a minute! Was I dreaming or did I see Abdullah the Butcher's name in the Puerto Rico section of the Observer this week. Correct me if I'm wrong, but wasn't he the one who met Mrs. Goodish at the airport and told her the bad news? I have heard that he was a good friend of Brody's. If that's the case I have some serious questions. 1) What is he doing working for those scumbags? Unless he has revenge in mind. (Which I'm not condoning.) 2) Why would Carlos Colon trust him, especially in an angle in which Abby used a fork on everyone including Gonzales? This saga gets more and more insane... Arena Reporter Bruce Grummert was the talk of the WWF T.V. tapings last week in Omaha. I haven't received his report yet but I heard from another source that Bruce and his two friends showed up front row with Wrestle War T-shirts on. Most of the officials there tried to make them take
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Correspondent Reports

Boston Garden

Boston, MA

April 22, 1989

Correspondent: Louie Fortuna

1) Greg Valentine pinned Blue Blazer Hart in 11:01. As Blazer came off the top rope, Greg reversed the press and won the bout. 2) Barbarian over Jim Neidhart in 8:56. Fuje distracted the "Anvil" and Barbie hit Jim with a knee in the back setting up the pin. 3) Honkeytonk Man beat Hillbilly Jim with the same ending as the previous match in 7:31. ***** At this point, Tito Santana comes out for his match with Rick Martel. He was walking around ringside shaking hands when Martel exploded from the dressing room and attacked Tito. They said they had to postpone the bout until later in the card as Tito was hurting. It was done real well. ***** (These stars are not grades, just dividers. Didn't want you to think Louie gave Honkey-Hillbilly 5 stars. There would have went his credibility.) 4) Demolition retained their tag titles by defeating The Twin Towers via DQ. After Demo clotheslined Boss Man over the top rope, they double clotheslined Akeem who slammed (summer) into the ref. Bubba brought in the night stick and got caught with it for the DQ. 5) "The Genie" Lanny Poffo beat Jim Powers with his backflip off the top rope in 10:31. 6) Brutus Beefcake pinned Bad News Brown in 7:34. BNB went and got Beefer's scissors. When the ref tried to take them away, Brutus snuck up from behind and rolled up Brown. 7) Rick Martel pinned Tito Santana using the ropes for leverage in a short but good 3:14. 8) Ultimate Warrior beat Rick Rude via count out. Heenan was at ringside and as they fought outside the ring, Warrior beat the count in 10:31. Att: 9,500

Gleason's Gym

Brooklyn, NY

April 22, 1989

Correspondent: Gary Fishman

1) Romanian Warrior pinned The Defender $\frac{1}{4}$ * 2) Brian Drescher beat Cuban Savage (offspring of Liz Poffo and Cuban Assassin) via count out. Gary said Savage had a wig on and Brian accidentally pulled it off but unlike Kerry Von Erich, there was a head under there. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Gino Caruso won a light heavyweight battle royal to crown a champ. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 4) Tony Coco beat Mr. Nice. Dud 5) Bialo the Giant beat Mondo Kleen by DQ when Sweet William interfered. $\frac{1}{4}$ * 6) The Shadow pinned Tommy Norton. $\frac{3}{4}$ * 7) Black Gordman beat Deisel Don with a chain. $\frac{3}{4}$ * 8) The Shadow, Larry Brisco, and Little White Wolf beat Rhino Power 1 & II, and Tommy Norton. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 9) Johnny Rodz beat Cuban Savage #1 with Gordman making this match as he constantly interfered making up for Cube's lack of ring psych. *** 10) Twin Towers (original again) beat The Russian and the Beast to win the tag titles. Highlight of this bout was that one of the twins landed on his head outside the ring and was busted open. Wonder if he's related to Cactus Jack. Att: 300

Madison Square Garden

New York, NY

April 24, 1989

Correspondent: Elyse Zois

1) Greg Valentine pinned Blue Blazer in 11:00 when Greg caught Hart in the air as he came off the ropes, slammed and pinned him. D+ 2) Hillbilly Jim beat Honkeytonk Man in :26. They had mercy on NY. Hart (Jimmy) hit Hilljim with the megaphone for the Dq before bout even started. Heard the reason this happened was because Honkey didn't want to do a job for Granny on the next card so he took it out on Hillbilly. No grade. 3) Dino Bravo pinned Hercules as Herc went for a sunset flip but Dino held onto the ropes and sat down for a pin. D

4) Paul Roma pinned Boris Zhukov after a powerslam in 12:23. C 5) Jake Roberts beat Ted DiBiase with a roll up in 16:16. B 6) Bret Hart and Curt Hennig went to a twenty minute draw in 19:06. These last two bouts were good matches. B 7) The Bushwhackers beat The Brain Busters as Arn picked up Butch Miller and was knocked down by Luke. He was pinned. Wonderful, they let The Rockers have a few clean pins but only after three matches in the series. They give the Bushes one right away. C 8) Randy Savage beat Hulk Hogan on count out in 10:36. Sherri had a hold of Hogan, thus he was counted out. As Elyse pointed out, Hulk can get away from everyone, but not a manager. Maybe they'll rename Sherri, "Macho Woman". C

Letters To The Editor

Wrestlemania V

Although many fans are going to proclaim Wrestlemania V a success because it had good production values, a professional look, and a high margin of profitability, to me it represented the low point of being a fan in the 1980's. The humiliation of Terry Taylor, the waste of Owen Hart, the destruction of Randy Savage, and the most ridiculous use of the superman gimmick I have ever seen added up to a painful afternoon. But to me the worst part was that April 2nd, 1989 marked the date that Roddy Piper joined the circus and became an absolute clown.

I think that the NWA has made a wise choice in not having the Crockett Cup this year considering that in the past few months they have lost or discarded the three best tag teams on the continent. The real saving grace for the NWA will be for Dick Murdoch to hang Vincent Young from the rafters the next time they team together.

Gary Fishman
Kew Gardens, NY

RL- I got this letter before Young quit the NWA which I guess is just as good as a hanging. At least he's gone.

Since every bulletin will cover WrestleMania V from every possible angle, I thought I'd try something a bit different. This is the wide range of emotions I felt as I watched:

OPTIMISM: as the opener (Haku-Hercules) was surprisingly watchable and the next bout (Rockers-Towers) was actually enjoyable, maybe there was hope for this show.

DISAPPOINTMENT: as such great wrestlers as Ted DiBiase, Ron Garvin, Curt Hennig, and Owen Hart were involved in mediocre confrontations.

ANGER: that the once great Shepherders have been reduced to total buffoons. The same can be said for Hacksnore Jim Duggan and Terry "Cockadoodledoo" Taylor.

SADNESS: At the pathetic physical condition of Andre the Giant. He was clearly exhausted by the walk to the ring and put on possibly the worst "major" match of all time.

APPRECIATION: for Tully, Arn, Tito, and Rick Martel for always giving 100%.

EXCITEMENT: during the action packed main event.

RESENTMENT: towards Hulk Hogan for playing superman and destroying Randy Savage's credibility. Randy hit him with his finishing move and he just got up. Let's make wrestling look as ridiculous as possible, huh Hulk?

Finally, the most consistent emotion throughout was boredom. Ten of the fourteen matches were awful, dull, or just didn't live up to

the hype.

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

Scott "Danny Davis" Dickinson

I just wanted to write to say I had a great time in New Haven. Great show. I thought the last five minutes of Luger-Hayes was as good as it gets. Unfortunately, the first fifteen were pretty bad. Flair-Steamboat was great stuff. You hit it right on the head when you said you have to see those chops live to appreciate them.

One more note to your readers. The only thing I have in common with Fred Sparta is that we're both referees. THAT'S IT. Keep up the good work.

Scott Dickinson
Salem, MA

RL- Some of you may not be familiar with Fred Sparta. He refs all the New England shows and is now starting to get the MSG and t.v. tapes to work on. Let's just say that Freddy comes from the Terry Garvin school of self defense. Gee Scott, I could have used Tommy You..... No, that wouldn't have worked either. Well, I hope the above title rectifies the situation.

Heel What?:?

As a member of the wrestling fans community, I feel obligated to share the following inside information with "Arena Report's" readers-- despite the promise that I've already made to Vince.

You see, ever since the tremendous success of the "Evil Twin Referee Angle", Vince has been searching for a follow-up angle that would go over just as well, if not better.

Well, now he's found it. In just a few short weeks, Gary Michael Cappetta will debut with Titan-- yet another of Vince's strategic raids. He'll be used in the weeks prior to Summerslam II so that the fans can become familiar with him.

At Summerslam, Gary Michael will handle all ring introductions up to and including the main event. (Hogan vs. Zeuss) However, after the Hulkster pins Zeus clean in the middle, I will enter the ring and announce Zeus as the new WWF champion. Seconds later, Gary Michael will do a run in.... and we'll go at each other until Howard Finkel makes the save.

The "Evil Twin Ring Announcer Angle" will make Titan history. Millions will revel in it's creativity, satisfied that justice has been served (at least in the eyes of Dave Meltzer, Steve Sims, and Jeff Zinger, among others.).

You'll have to excuse me now, stardom awaits.

Jeff Siegel
Evanston, IL

RL- For you who have never met Jeff, he's the spitting image of Cappatta.

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them off. They finally offered them free tickets to all area shows and the triumverate agreed. But they still had the shirts on. When WWF officials told them they could have any t-shirt to wear, Bruce asked for Big Bossman. But of course he doesn't have one out yet. They finally ended up wearing Ultimate Warrior T-shirts but were yelling derogatory things about Titan all night. That's our WWF lover Bruce. Way to stand up for your right... Kendo Nagasaki debuted

at the tapings managed by Mr. Fuji. Shows he's not going anywhere. Not that he should... They ran an angle with Honkey and Snuka as Jimmy pinned him with the splash in quick order... Hacksaw Duggan wrestled Haku in a match for Saturday Night's Main Event. (Not sure of air date.) Duggan wins the crown and they have a coronation. Give him a jester's hat instead. It would fit him better... Barry Windham will not be working for Dusty. Not sure what doors are left open now... Talk is if Dusty doesn't draw a good house in Miami 5/6 he's all done. I think he'll be all done... Notice that the WWF announcers are trying not to say "Curt Hennig" any more. It's always, "Perfect this, and Perfect that". Pretty soon Tully and Arn will be known as Brain Busters #1 and #2... How's this for a main event at an independant show; Bad Company vs. Midnight Express, May 12 in Girard, Ohio... I don't know how many of you caught the Samoan Swat Team nailing Julio Barrera with that pineapple. Great stuff... The NWA needs a bona fide ring announcer for their syndies. The guys they've had so far are just terribly boring. Give Howard a call but of course he won't answer... Two weeks ago in the Sporting News there was a mention of the two sports figures that command the most for a commercial. They were Magic Johnson and Hulk Hogan with an asking price of \$400,000. The recent Kerry-Lawler bouts have been pitiful. A far cry from Superclash... FNN's schedule in June has a 1½ hour block at 10:30 listed. Half hour PRO WRESTLING THIS WEEK and probably Memphis. Plug time: Jon Gallagher, PO Box 65, Knoxville, IL 61448 puts out "Wrestling Forum" at \$1.50 an issue. Also ask Jon about joining the United Association of Wrestling Fans as this years convention is only 3 months away. It will be held in Chicago and it's well worth the trip... "Mat Watch" is put out by Steve Beverly, 213 Pine Hills Ave. Auburn, AL 36830. Steve comes out weekly and costs \$5.00 for a two month subscription. Well worth the price... Lance Levine, 190 Grove Ave, Des Plaines, IL 60016 publishes "Chokehold". Lance charges 50¢ an issue to look inside his head. But be careful, you might be afraid at what you find. Seriously, give it a try. Very unique... Jeff Zinger is putting out a "Missy Hyatt Fun Club Magazine". Some great pictures of Missy as well as a letter to her fans. Write to Jeff at Fun Club, c/o Woodstock Records, 408 Dundas St. Woodstock, ONT Canada N4S 1B9. By the way Jeff, thanks alot for the plug in G.A.G. I only had to hide the issue from my wife as she'd probably believe that I asked you to print it. Remember my man. Pay back's a b and Chicago isn't too far away. Cost for that book is \$3.00. More -- plugs next issue.

Final Word

Thanks to all who contributed. We'll see you in two weeks from Springfield. Hope you enjoyed the issue and hope you Travis Brothers girlfriends have great Mothers Days.

See ya,

Ron

Jeff,

I added six more issues of "AR" for the book. Boy, my wife was not happy. My GAG shirt ran in the wash. It's now hot pink.

Ron